

Message Text

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14-12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 L-03 SR-02 ORM-01 PRS-01 SCA-01

VO-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-07 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00

FBIE-00 SY-05 INSE-00 SSO-00 /054 W

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R 180830Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 223

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 3407

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CGEN TW MY

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR ASYLUM BY TAIWANESE CREWMAN

1. ON JUNE 17 EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICERS INTERVIEWED A CHINESE REQUESTING ASYLUM AND ALLEGING TO BE YEN KUAN TI (SURNAME YEN), A TAIWANESE CREWMAN FROM A TAIWANESE FISHING VESSEL DOCKED IN PENANG. YEN STATED HE WAS BEING OPPRESSED BY KUOMINTANG OFFICIALS FOR POLITICAL REASONS AND COULD NOT RETURN TO TAIWAN. HOWEVER, HE COULD PRODUCE NO EVIDENCE OF KUOMINTANG OPPRESSION NOR ANY IDENTITY DOCUMENTS.

2. CONSULAR OFFICERS THEN SUGGESTED CONTACTING GOM IMMIGRATION FOR ASSISTANCE AND YEN READILY AGREED. YEN ADDED THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT ASYLUM IN ANY COUNTRY. DIR-GEN OF IMMIGRATION MOHD KHALIL HUSSEIN WAS INFORMED AND SENT IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS TO TAKE CUSTODY OF YEN, WHO WILLINGLY ACCOMPANIED THEM FROM EMBASSY PREMISES.

3. JUNE 17 EDITION OF "NEW STRAITS TIMES" (NST) REPORTED THAT IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES IN KUALA LUMPUR HAD DETAINED YEN, ONE OF TWO TAIWANESE CREWMEN SEEKING POLITICAL ASYLUM WITH THE PRC OR VIETNAMESE EMBASSIES, FOR CONTRAVENING CONDITIONS OF THEIR ENTRY. THE SECOND MAN,
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WEI JIN SHEN, WAS STILL BEING SOUGHT. NST ARTICLE

CONTINUED THAT BOTH MEN WERE MEMBERS OF 16-MAN CREW OF TAIWANESE FISHING BOAT WHICH ARRIVED IN PENANG ON JUNE 13 TO REFUEL. UNDER CONDITIONS OF ENTRY, CREWMEN WERE CONFINED TO PENANG AND, BY TRAVELING TO KUALA LUMPUR, YEN AND WEI HAD COMMITTED AN OFFENSE. THE PRC EMBASSY DECLINED COMMENT AND FOREIGN MINISTRY REPORTEDLY IS STUDYING THE MATTER.

4. UPON LEARNING FROM EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICERS THAT A MAN ALLEGING TO BE YEN WAS AT THE EMBASSY, KHALIL SPECULATED THAT THERE COULD BE THREE PERSONS MISSING FROM THE CREW, TWO OF WHOM NAMED YEN KUAN TI, OR THAT THE MAN ORIGINALLY DETAINED BY IMMIGRATION IN KUALA LUMPUR WAS WEI AND NOT YEN. KHALIL ADDED THAT ALL DOCUMENTATION FOR THE FISHERMEN WAS BEING HELD IN CUSTODY IN PENANG AND THAT YEN AND WEI WOULD BE RETURNED THERE FOR IDENTIFICATION.
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